

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 014732
ORIGIN CU-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: CU/YSS:FTLIDE

APPROVED BY: CU/YSS:MASPRECKELMEYER

-----057434 191503Z /43

R 191250Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014732

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRID 239 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW
HAVANA JAN 10.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00239

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: "WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS" IN
HAVANA

1. JUAN ANTONIO BARRAGAN, SEC GEN OF THE PSOE'S YOUTH WING, "JUVENTUDES SOCIALISTAS," RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFFS HIS AND OTHER SPANISH YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNING UCD'S, WERE HARD AT WORK ON PREPARATIONS FOR SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN A HUGE YOUTH RALLY TO BE HELD IN HAVANA DURING THE SUMMER OF 1978 (BARRAGAN'S REMARKS WERE REPORTED TO THE DEPT BY MEMCON). BARRAGAN UNDERSTOOD THAT AS MANY AS 300,000 YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING ABOUT 300 FROM SPAIN. HE EXPRESSED SOME SENSITIVITY OVER CHARGES OF SOVIET MANIPULATION OF THE CONGRESS, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CUBANS ALREADY HAD BEEN ALL TOO INTRUSIVE IN THE
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ORGANIZATION OF THE RALLY.

2. MORE RECENTLY, THE YOUTH WING OF THE SELF-STYLED MAOIST "WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION" (ORT), THE "JUVENTUDES MAOISTAS," ANNOUNCED AT THE TERMINATION OF THEIR JUST-CONCLUDED CONGRESS IN MADRID THAT THEY REJECTED THE "WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS,"

SCHEDULED FOR HAVANA IN JUNE, AS A SOVIET PROPAGANDA EXERCISE, AND THEY CHARGED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR BOGOMOLOV HAD INSERTED HIMSELF INTO SPANISH PLANNING FOR THE RALLY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THIS PRECIPITATED THE DEPARTURE FROM THE CONGRESS OF OBSERVERS FROM OTHER YOUTH GROUPS, RANGING FROM UCD TO THE FAR-LEFT.

3. THE SPANISH ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE RALLY HAS NOW RESPONDED TO THE YOUNG MAOISTS' CHARGES WITH A COMMUNIQUE INSISTING THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FESTIVAL ARE NONE OTHER THAN TO "DEVELOP PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE WORLD." THE COMMUNIQUE AFFIRMS THAT SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE RALLY IS SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND DENIES THAT BOGOMOLOV HAS PARTICIPATED IN ANY OF THE PLANNING MEETINGS, WHILE ADMITTING THAT A "REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MADRID ATTENDS AS AN OBSERVER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY INFORMATION ON THE FESTIVAL, ITS BACKGROUND AND SPONSORS WHICH THE DEPT OR OTHER ADDRESSEES CAN PROVIDE WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO US IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH UCD AND, PARTICULARLY, THE PSOE. STABLER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: YOUTH, YOUTH FESTIVALS, STUDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE014732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CU/YSS:FTLIDE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780028-1066
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780144/aaaabldp.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6fe23be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3746793
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: \"WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS\" IN HAVANA
TAGS: PINT, SP
To: BUDAPEST
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6fe23be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014